Foreword

It is my great pleasure to write a few remarks about this wonderful collection of very timely and significant chapters on Natural Language Processing (NLP), covering both the research directions and the emerging applications of NLP. The editors (Sivaji Bandyopadhyay (SB), Sudip Kumar Naskar (SKN), and Asif Ekbal (AE), have provided us with a collection of very timely and comprehensive chapters on many of the key aspects of NLP written by a set of international scholars, who are active in their respective sub-areas of NLP. The areas covered in this volume, such as Text Analysis, Machine Translation, Question Answering Systems, Content Management, and Speech Processing, very nicely survey the current major NLP research and development areas. From this perspective, this collection is being published just at the right time! The editors (SB, SKN, and AE) have also provided us with a very helpful preface useful for active researchers as well as for those who are planning to enter this very exciting field. They are to be congratulated for undertaking the very significant task of presenting this volume to all of us in the NLP community.

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Aravind K. Joshi is the Henry Salvatori Professor of Computer and Cognitive Science in the Department of Computer and Information Science at the University of Pennsylvania. He received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 1960. His early research was in information theory and communication theory. Since 1958, he has been working almost continuously on problems that overlap computer science and linguistics. Much of this research can be classified under formal linguistics, natural language processing, artificial intelligence, and cognitive science. In his professional career, he has been in many responsible positions, such as the Chair of the Department of Computer and Information Science, University of Pennsylvania (1972-1985), Co-Director, Institute for Research in Cognitive Science, University of Pennsylvania. His professional awards include the Life Time Achievement Award from ACL, Research Excellence Award from IJCAI, Honorary Doctorate from University of Paris, and the Franklin Medal for Cognitive Science, among others. He was elected fellow of both the IEEE and ACM, member of the advisory panel of NSF, fellow of the AAAI, and member of the International Joint Committee of Computational Linguistics (COLING).